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RH (21)
13:14:315

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

November 7, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: G - Mr. Johnson

SUBJECT: U Thant's Proposed Appeal to Castro to Invite Latin American Ambassadors in Havana to Verify Removal of Soviet Offensive Weapons.

Just before lunch today, U Thant sent Ralph Bunche over to the U. S. Mission where he conveyed the following to Adlai Stevenson, McCloy, and Yost, emphasizing the highly sensitive nature of the subject and urging that on no account should this suggestion reach the press in any way since this would foredoom it to failure:

The Secretary General has reports that Mikoyan is getting nowhere in persuading the Cubans to accept UN verification of the removal of Cuban missiles. He therefore asks our reactions to his appealing to Castro to invite the five Latin American Ambassadors in Cuba (representing Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and Uruguay) to conduct ~~be~~ sort of after the fact verification to which the Soviets are prepared to agree, i.e., inspection of dismantled sites, loading of missiles on ships, etc. B1

Ambassador Stevenson gave the following personal reaction to Bunche:

This would be no substitute for the along-side inspection of Russian vessels at sea, but might be a useful supplement to it provided that the Ambassadors were given the widest possible latitude. He urged that in the event Washington agreed to pursuing this matter that U Thant obtain from Castro authority for the Ambassadors not only to visit the ports and missile sites but also follow up any reports they receive on the concealing of missiles in caves, etc. B1

Charlies Yost and others in New York think this idea has some promise and request urgent consideration and instructions.

IO:WW:nmb
Yost

4-1-88

IO - Woodruff Wallner

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS, FPC, CDR

Date: 4/3/92

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MR. Clegg Only
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REVIEWED byDATE 4-1-88

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IO - Woodruff Wallner